

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert at page 1, after the title and before line 1, the following subtitle:

Background of the Invention;

Please insert at page 3, before line 18, the following subtitle: **Brief Summary of the Invention;**

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7; which starts with "These and other";

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10, which starts with "Further characteristics of";

Page 6, line 8, please delete "ring of" and insert therefor: **rings 27 of**

Page 6, in the first full paragraph, beginning at line 3, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The assurance of greater safety if there is a rupture in the system of mechanical gas seals 26 and 28; this is because the presence of the compensating drum 22 and its seal (even if made with greater clearance in order to prevent overheating), although it may not make any contribution in normal operating conditions (leakage to the exterior is practically zero), will cause a pressure differential to be created between the two sides of the said compensating drum 22 if the primary **rings 27** of the gas seal 26 or 28 is ruptured, since the leakage will increase considerably. Thus the compensating drum 22 will return to its normal function of balancing the aerodynamic thrust generated by the impellers 16 (even if this is partial because of the increased clearance of the seal). It should be noted that, owing to the presence of the compensating drum 22, it is necessary to use at the delivery end a gas seal 28 having a diameter markedly greater than that which it would have had if the compensating drum 22 had been removed.

Please insert at page 4, before line 13, the following subtitle: Brief Description of the Drawings; and

Please insert at page 4, before line 20, the following subtitle: Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment.

Page 9, line 21, please delete the line in its entirety.